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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos of winning teams and three of the top individual scorers may be retrieved at the following web site:

<<http://www.eiu.edu/~eiuchem/HScontest/CHEMCONT.HTM>>.

For Immediate Release:

ANNUAL EIU CONTEST NAMED AFTER FOUNDER MAURICE SHEPHERD

CHARLESTON -- In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Eastern Illinois University's high school chemistry contest, organizers officially named the event after its founder – Maurice D. Shepherd, former EIU faculty member (1967-1992) from Charleston.

“Maury Shepherd initiated the contest in 1975 and he promoted and hosted it until his retirement in 1992,” said current contest coordinator Dan Sheeran. “As a tribute to Maury and in recognition of his dedication and service to the chemistry department and beyond, the contest will be renamed in his honor this year.”

Sheeran said Shepherd got the idea for the contest while visiting Paris High School to observe a student teacher. While lunching with the school's chemistry teacher, Shepherd noticed some certificates pertaining to a chemistry contest sponsored by Indiana State University years earlier. With the assistance of fellow faculty member Julian Hamerski, Shepherd coordinated the

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contest for many years.

This year's contest welcomed 69 students from 13 area high schools. Students participated in a 60-minute written examination (50 questions), followed by a lunch break and talk -- "Some Problems in Chaos and Cosmology" -- presented by Keith Andrew, chair of Eastern's Department of Physics. The top five teams and the top individuals were then recognized and awards presented.

The five schools having the highest team average were: 1) **Unity High School, Tolono** -- Dustin Schwenk, Hannah Meharry, Caleb Sancken, Sarah Hand, Jessir Beard and Diana Herriott (coach); 2) **Effingham High School, Effingham** -- Kathryn Mathews, Aaron Kinkelaar, Michael Andes, Josh Bradford, Kaleb Hirtzel, Jennifer Huelsbusch, Neha Petal, Jamie Baldwin, Tom Gibbons and Norene Ault (coach); 3) **Neoga High School, Neoga** -- Krista Walk, Jamie Walk, Zachary Switzer, Pete Sudkamp and Leanne Evans (coach); 4) **Georgetown-Ridge Farm High School, Georgetown** -- James Chandler, Carlee Hawkins, Kristina Wright, Travis Tate and Sam Corbin (coach); and 5) **St. Teresa High School, Decatur** -- Jordan Neviakus, Jamie Wade, Julie Owen, Drew Brinkoelter, Richard Wagner, Tim Bliefnick and Barbara Gottemoller (coach).

The highest ranking individual students, in order, were: 1) Andy McCormick, Charleston; 2) Jamie Wade, St. Teresa; 3) Caleb Sancken, Unity; 4) Pete Sudkamp, Neoga; 5) Hannah Meharry, Unity; 6) Andrew Hagler, Tuscola; 7) Tom Gibbons, Effingham; 8) Tie -- Michael Andes, Effingham; Brady Lewis, Newton; and Travis Tate, Georgetown-Ridge Farm; 9) Chris Potsch, Charleston; and 10) Jon Shirazi, Tuscola.

Eastern's high school chemistry contest brings students (mostly sophomores and juniors) from regional schools onto the university's campus and provides them with a first-hand look at Eastern. It also gives students an opportunity to find out about EIU's Department of Chemistry and for the department to identify potential chemistry majors.